Kohinoor diamond

1936. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally abandoned its efforts to get back 'Kohinoor' diamond from UK; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (b) Government is continuing to explore ways & means for obtaining a satisfactory resolution of the matter.

Bus service between Amritsar and Nankana Sahib

1937. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken to start a bus service from Amritsar to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (b) India and Pakistan agreed in principle to start the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib Bus Service in a technical meeting held in Islamabad on May 10-11, 2005. The next round of meeting to discuss the modalities of the bus service would be held soon at mutually convenient dates.

Musharraf's deliberation in SAFMA Conference

1938. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the address given by the Pakistani President to a SAFMA Conference including an over 30 strong delegation from India in Islamabad on the 20th May, 2005 suggesting a time frame and a formula for resolution of the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, whether any official communication has been received in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have considered the proposal and discussed the formula with Pakistan, if so, at what level and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Media reports indicate that President Musharraf, at the concluding session of a conference organized by South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) on 20 May 2005 in Islamabad, had *inter alia* and said that the Kashmir issue should better be settled during the tenure of Dr. Manmohan Singh and himself. He also reportedly said that there was a solution to the Kashmir issue, which ought to be acceptable to India, Pakistan and the Kashmiris.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Singapore

1939. SHRIMATI SUKHBANS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Singapore Prime Minister a comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty were signed;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement and the treaty; and

(c) the main objectives thereof and the action taken and are being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is structured as an integrated package of several agreements covering trade in goods, trade in services, investment and economic cooperation in fields like education, since and technology, air services and intellectual property. The main objectives of singing the CECA include further cementing India's traditional ties with Singapore and expanding our trade, investment and economic cooperation with Singapore as well as the ASEAN in the context of our "look East" Policy.